

Montana Drought Advisory Committee

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




19 September 2007

Montana Drought Status by County - September, 2007

Map Key

 Continental Divide
 Drought Impact Type

Drought Status September 2007

 No Drought - Moist
 No Drought
 Slightly Dry
 Moderately Dry (Drought Alert)
 Severely Dry
 Extremely Dry (Severe Drought)

Drought Impact Types - **A** = Agricultural - Soil Moisture, Range conditions

H = Hydrological - Water Supplies, Streamflow, Groundwater

Drought Alert - Governor's Drought Advisory Committee strongly encourages local officials to convene local drought committees.

Severe Drought - Local officials should have local drought planning efforts underway or should reconvene the local drought committee at the earliest opportunity.

For recommended responses, see the Montana Drought Plan.



<http://nris.mt.gov/drought/>



<http://drought.mt.gov/>

Montana County Drought Status

Recovery from meteorological and agricultural drought during spring and early summer on both sides of the Continental Divide has regressed as record high temperatures and below average precipitation causes soil moisture, crop, and range conditions to deteriorate. Hydrological aspects of the drought continue to worsen as reservoirs are drafted heavily and streamflow approaches very low levels for a number of rivers across the state due to late formation and early melt of the mountain snowpack.

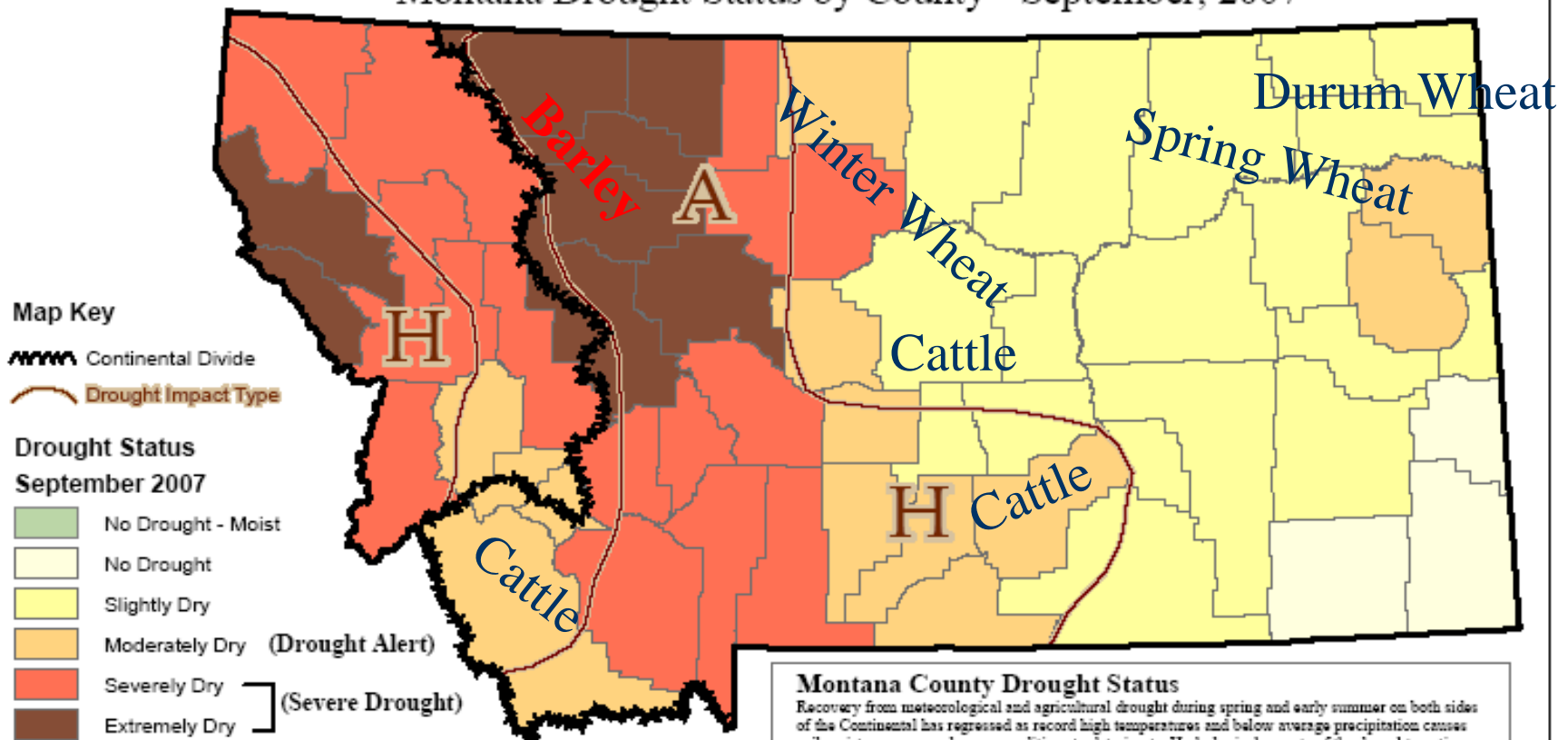
The Governor's Drought Advisory Committee assesses water supply and moisture conditions on a monthly basis to determine drought status for each county of the state. The drought status map is used primarily to promote awareness of drought and to alert Montanans to impending drought conditions so they may respond appropriately.

Drought Alert: Governor's Drought Advisory Committee strongly encourages watershed groups and county drought committees to convene and undertake planning for drought.

Severe Drought: Local officials should have local drought planning underway or should convene local drought planning at the earliest opportunity.

For information about how the drought status maps are determined or to learn more about recommended responses to drought see the Montana Drought Response Plan.
<http://nris.state.mt.us/drought/committee/DroughtP07.pdf>

Montana Drought Status by County - September, 2007



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Crop Weather Report

Week Ending September 16, 2007

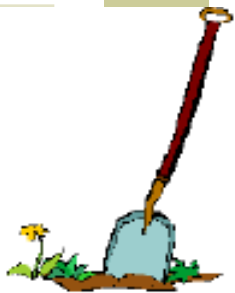
- ◆ Harvest of small grains virtually complete
- ◆ Durum wheat 96% harvested; only small grain left

Spring Planted Crops

Harvest of most small grains same as last year.

Harvest of most pulse and oilseeds behind last year.





Topsoil Moisture Better than Last Month

September 16, 2007	This Week	Last Month	Last Year	5-yr Avg
Very Short/Short	82%	90%	58%	68%
Adequate	16%	9%	39%	30%
Surplus	2%	1%	3%	2%



Subsoil Moisture Same as Last Month, Last Year, & 5-Yr Average

September 16, 2007	This Week	Last Month	Last Year	5-yr Avg
Very Short/Short	80%	83%	81%	81%
Adequate	19%	17%	18%	18%
Surplus	1%	0%	1%	1%

Winter Wheat Seedings



- ◆ Planting ahead of last year
- ◆ 6.5 days suitable for field work last week, no precip to slow things down
- ◆ Planting about 28% complete

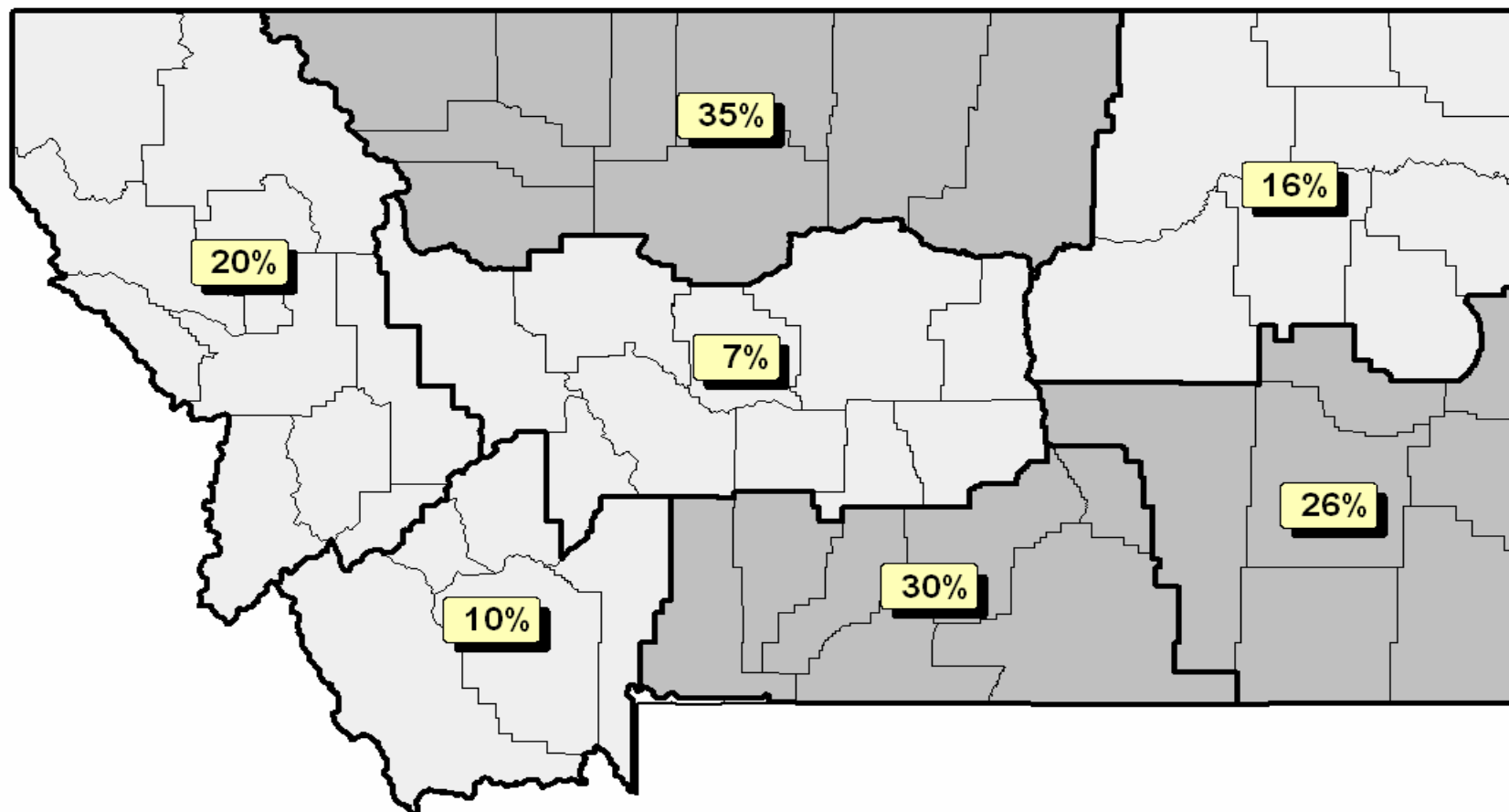


Winter Wheat Seeding Ahead of Last Year & 5-Year Average

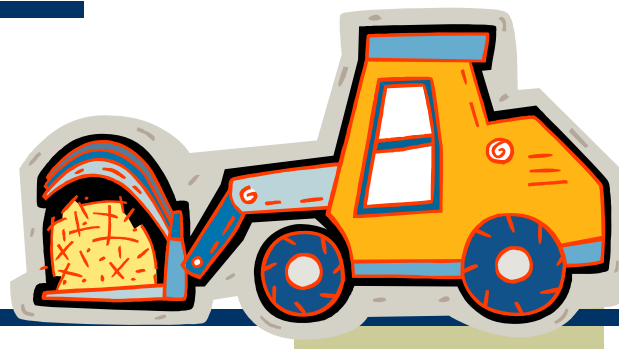
September 16, 2007	This Week	Last Year	5-yr Avg
Winter Wheat Seeded	28%	19%	25%

Winter Wheat Planted, Montana

by District for week ending September 16, 2007



Hay Harvest Ahead of 5-Year Average



September 16, 2007	This Week	Last Year	5-yr Avg
Alfalfa Hay Second Cutting	99%	97%	93%
Other Hay Second Cutting	91%	94%	88%

Livestock Grazing



- ◆ Range and pasture feed condition better than last year and 5-year average
- ◆ Ranchers moving cattle and sheep from summer ranges



Range & Pasture Conditions Better than Last Year and 5-Year Average

September 16, 2007	This Week	Last Month	Last Year	5-yr Avg
Very Poor/Poor	37%	43%	50%	50%
Fair	38%	36%	36%	29%
Good	21%	17%	11%	15%
Excellent	4%	4%	3%	2%



Movement from Summer Ranges

September 16, 2007	This Week	Last Month	Last Year	5-yr Avg
Cattle & Calves	25%	15%	29%	26%
Sheep & Lambs	23%	11%	21%	25%



To Sum It Up

- ◆ Winter wheat seeding well ahead of last year
- ◆ Small grain harvest virtually complete
- ◆ Range & pasture feed condition improved
- ◆ Moving livestock to winter pastures & ranges
- ◆ Need widespread precipitation to improve conditions for winter wheat



Small Grains Summary

- ◆ Due out September 28
- ◆ Final acreage and production estimates